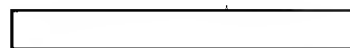


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11 March 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

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[Political Developments in South Vietnam:]

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[] General Thi accepted gracefully the loss of his position as I Corps commander, and stated that he would submit a letter of resignation for medical reasons. However, Thi agreed only reluctantly to leave for the United States sometime next week. He was scheduled to return to Da Nang today to participate in the formal transfer of his command to General Chuan, presently 1st Division commander in I Corps, but was detained when he arrived at the airport. Thi was later permitted to return to his Saigon residence.]

[An uneasy political atmosphere is likely to persist in Saigon until General Thi actually leaves the country, although there have been no adverse reactions thus far to his removal.]

[Any challenge to Premier Ky from those now in positions of power would probably involve the commanders of II and IV corps, who are apparently aware that the charges of insubordination made against Thi could well be applied to them.] IV Corps commander General Quang may be ousted soon, and that in the meantime he is attempting to strengthen his position.]

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The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The A Chau special forces camp in western Thua Thien Province was overrun by elements of a probable North Vietnamese regiment yesterday afternoon, after more than 36 hours of heavy fighting. Of the 17 US personnel in the camp, six wounded were air evacuated, four were killed in action, and seven are missing. There were also approximately 370 South Vietnamese defenders, 92

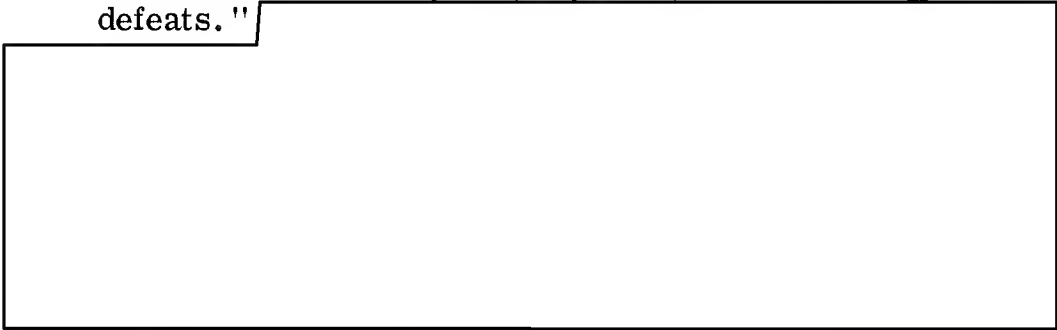
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of whom have been air evacuated while some 24 others are attempting to withdraw from the area on the ground. The missing Americans are probably with this group.

Elsewhere yesterday, there were no reports of significant enemy contact in allied operations now in progress. US forces operating in Darlac Province on the previous day uncovered a Communist supply cache that furnished further evidence of the presence of the North Vietnamese 32nd Regiment.

Communist Political Developments: Peking's public statements reporting developments in Vietnam continue to assert that events are progressing favorably for the Communists. A People's Daily editorial note on 10 March declared that the Viet Cong have "smashed" the offensive of US forces and "considerably depleted the effectiveness of the US troops." It claimed that the more reinforcements the US "aggressors" brought in and the "bigger the war" they fought, "the greater were their defeats."



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Indonesia: Student violence against the government continues.

In the last three days the students have invaded the Indonesian foreign affairs department and damaged separate buildings housing the Chinese Communist news agency, consulate general, and trade office. They are said to have torn up leaflets calling for national unity and support for Sukarno which were showered on them by an air force helicopter.

The army, although sympathetic toward student activity, has been careful to avoid the appearance of open and active support. Army troops have been relatively lenient in handling the demonstrations, and they clearly desire to avoid serious disorder. Security forces, including army elements, have prevented another student visit to the foreign affairs building, a march on the Chinese Embassy, and any activity in the palace area.

[redacted]
[redacted] The US Embassy has taken security measures against the possibility of further anti-American demonstrations. The most recent attack on the embassy on 8 March involved a relatively small number of demonstrators but was unusually violent.]

Sukarno has concluded the first of three scheduled meetings with high-level civilian and military officials which apparently are intended to provide a basis for new initiatives against the students and possibly against the army. Political party heads who participated in the meeting [are reported to] have issued a statement supporting Sukarno and expressing disapproval of student activity.

[redacted]

France-NATO: [All the North Atlantic Council (NAC) delegates except the French will meet informally today to consider the UK's proposed declaration in support of the North Atlantic Treaty and an integrated military organization.]

[The British have been quick to seize the diplomatic initiative in dealing with De Gaulle and have instructed their ambassadors in NATO capitals to reinforce their effort in the NAC. Although insisting that immediate action to rally the alliance against De Gaulle is vital, they have also indicated that overreaction to the French proposals should be avoided. London probably believes that the declaration it has proposed may block more radical moves by others.]

[The French Foreign Ministry has indicated that France will certainly denounce the 1952 Protocol on the Status of Military Headquarters, an agreement governing the rights of military personnel assigned to NATO headquarters or organizations. No decision has yet been reached, however, on the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). In a conversation on 9 March with the British ambassador, Couve de Murville was similarly specific on the removal of NATO headquarters within about a year, but was unclear on French moves in other areas. Both the headquarters agreement and SOFA may be terminated one year after notice of denunciation.]

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Dominican Republic: Garcia Godoy continues to muse about the possibility of a "national unity" presidential candidate in the 1 June elections.

The President has said he is toying with the idea of asking both Juan Bosch and Joaquin Balaguer, the two leading contenders, to withdraw from the race in favor of a compromise candidate better able to promote stability. The President, who made these remarks to the Brazilian member of the OAS Committee on 8 March, added that he thought he could obtain Balaguer's backing for such a move but was doubtful that Bosch would go along.

It seems unlikely that either Bosch or Balaguer would accept a compromise candidate. Balaguer remains highly confident of victory, and Bosch, although not yet an announced candidate, continues to prepare for the elections.

[In recent weeks, Garcia Godoy has been floating suggestions that he could be a compromise presidential candidate or that his provisional regime could be extended. Despite his apparent political ambitions, however, he probably sees little chance of remaining in power, and his public statements and actions indicate he continues to plan to hold the elections as scheduled.]

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NOTES

Tanzania: [US Embassy officials in Dar-es-Salaam report that the "necessary conditions" for a coup are now at hand in Tanzania. Although they see no evidence of current plotting to oust President Nyerere, they believe that the country's growing domestic troubles, mostly economic, could set the stage for such a move. Nyerere himself was apparently badly shaken by the coup in Ghana and is reportedly taking special precautions.]

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Kenya: [President Kenyatta may expel several more Soviet bloc and Chinese Communist diplomats and newspapermen, in addition to the six ordered out of Kenya yesterday. A special security review committee established after the Ghana coup recommended the ouster of the first group,

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[redacted] A list of 28 more is being examined. [redacted]

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[redacted] Kenyatta was concerned over the possibility of a coup and believed that the Communists would be the most likely supporters of such a move.]

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*Guatemala: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST) The situation appears calm on the surface. Chief of Government Peralta's meeting with the high command which began at 11:00 AM EST yesterday was still in progress at 6:00 PM last evening. Ambassador Mein, who met with Peralta prior to the meeting, described the Chief of Government as relaxed and confident--not like a man on the way out. The lengthy meeting was probably concerned with devising a way to keep Mendez of the Revolutionary Party from being elected president by the congress--in which he apparently will have a majority--or of nullifying last Sunday's election.]

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